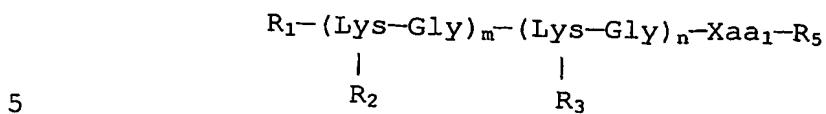


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What is claimed is:

1. A multiple antigenic agent comprising:



Formula I

(SEQ ID NO:1) wherein, R_1 is 0 to 2 amino acid residues comprising Cys or Gly or a nucleic acid sequence; m is at least 1; n is at least 1; Xaa_1 is 0 to 1 amino acid residue 10 comprising Lys- R_4 ; R_2 , R_3 and R_4 , are independently a B cell determinant, a T cell determinant, or targeting molecule; and R_5 is any amino acid, peptide, or nucleic acid sequence.

2. The multiple antigenic agent of claim 1, wherein the B cell determinant comprises the ectodomain of matrix 15 protein 2 or a homolog thereof.

3. The multiple antigenic agent of claim 1, wherein the R_1 of a first and second multiple antigenic agent is Cys-Gly and said Cys residue of said first and second multiple antigenic agent are covalently linked to produce a 20 dimer.

4. A composition comprising the multiple antigenic agent of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

5. The composition of claim 4, wherein the composition further comprises an adjuvant.

25 6. The composition of claim 4, wherein the composition comprises a vaccine.

7. The composition of claim 5, wherein the composition comprises a vaccine.

30 8. A method for preventing or treating a viral infection comprising administering to a subject an

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effective amount of a composition of claim 4 to prevent or treat the signs or symptoms of a viral infection.

9. A method for preventing or treating a viral infection comprising administering to a subject an 5 effective amount of a composition of claim 5 to prevent or treat the signs or symptoms of a viral infection.

10. A method for preventing or treating a viral infection comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a composition of claim 6 to prevent or 10 treat the signs or symptoms of a viral infection.

11. A method for preventing or treating a viral infection comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a composition of claim 7 to prevent or treat the signs or symptoms of a viral infection.

15 12. The method of claim 8, wherein the viral infection comprises influenza type A virus.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein the viral infection comprises influenza type A virus.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the viral 20 infection comprises influenza type A virus.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the viral infection comprises influenza type A virus.